

"In this family, no one fights alone." ~ Unknown

ISICSB MISSION

"The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system."

ISICSB VISION

"All emergency response entities in and around Iowa can access interoperable



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **New** Beginning in February 2023, the ISICSB Newsletter will be moving from a monthly to bi-monthly release—Look for the next issue in March 2023
- ♦ **New** Click [HERE](#) to read the January 2023 CISA Report
- ♦ Training Opportunities (see page 2 for more info)
- ♦ Region 15 700 MHz & 800 MHz Regional Planning Committee Meeting [MORE INFO](#)
- ♦ **ISICS NOC Contact Information:**
 - ♦ Phone: 515-278-5613
 - ♦ Email: isicsnoc@dps.state.ia.us
- ♦ If you would like to join one of the Regional Interoperability Committees, click [HERE](#)
- ♦ Announcement for current and future FirstNet Users and those with questions regarding FirstNet [READ MORE](#)

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click [HERE](#)

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click [HERE](#)

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Haley Nichols @ nichols@dps.state.ia.us

IN THIS ISSUE

ISICS

Training Announcements.....	Page 2
ISICS/ISICSB News.....	Page 2
New ISICS Users.....	Page 2
ISICS System Admin Report.....	Page 2

FirstNet

Message from Iowa's FirstNet Representative.....	Page 3
FirstNet Recent News.....	Page 3
New FirstNet Sites.....	Page 3
FirstNet Media Mentions.....	Page 4
Resources.....	Page 4
Contacts.....	Page 4

RESOURCES

Documents

- ♦ [2020—2023 Iowa Statewide Communications Plan \(SCIP\)](#)
- ♦ [2021 ISICSB Report to Legislature](#)
- ♦ [Approved ISICS Standards](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Contact Information Form](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Standardized Interoperability Guide Card](#)

Forms

- ♦ [Become a Board Member](#)
- ♦ [Committee Membership Application](#)
- ♦ [Radio Programming Certification Form](#)

YouTube Videos

- ♦ [Iowa Total Interoperability](#)
- ♦ [ISICS System Live Demo](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Technology](#)

Training Videos

- ♦ [Console/Control Station Training](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Standard 1.3.0—Use of Plain Language](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Standard 1.5.0—Regional & Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups](#)
- ♦ [ISICS Standard 1.5.2—Air Ambulance Scene Flight Landing Zone Coordination](#)
- ♦ [StatusBoard End User Training](#)

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JANUARY 2023 ISICSB MEETING MINUTES

*** Click [HERE](#) to read the January 12, 2023, ISICSB Meeting Minutes ***

HAPPENINGS

View calendar [HERE](#)

Trivia Question

How many total LED lights are in the Times Square New Year's Eve ball?

*** answer on page 3 ***

New Approved ISICS Users

- ◆ Western Iowa Power Cooperative—Level 2

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICS 300 INTERMEDIATE

DETAILS: This Course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System. This course expands upon information covered in the ICS-100 and ICS-200 courses.

AVAILABLE COURSE DATES:

2/21/2023—02/23/2023 (Sioux City) [REGISTRATION](#)
6/20/2023—6/22/2023 (Dubuque) [REGISTRATION](#)

ICS 400 ADVANCED

DETAILS: This course provides training on and resources for personnel who have a responsibility to function in a command post managing and expanding incident. Topics include use of an Incident Complex and Area Command, and the interactions between Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC entities).

AVAILABLE COURSE DATES:

4/20/2023—4/21/2023 (Sioux City) [REGISTRATION](#)
9/12/2023—9/13/2023 (Dubuque) [REGISTRATION](#)

SAVE THE DATES

The following training opportunities are planned for 2023. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

- ⇒ **Audio Gateway Course**—April 18-19, 2023 (Des Moines)
- ⇒ **COML**—May 22-25, 2023 (Cedar Rapids)
- ⇒ **COMT**—June 19-23, 2023 (Spencer)
- ⇒ **INTD**—October 3-6, 2023 (Pottawattamie)

Technology Gateway Survey

The ISICS Technology Committee is gathering information about agencies that may possess, or have available, radio GATEWAYS in their inventory.

This Survey will aid in the creation of a list of available gateways that could be potentially used in any future events. The information provided could be useful for any possible training opportunities going forward.

TAKE SURVEY

Questions? Contact Technology Committee Chair Patrick Updike @ patrick.updike@iowa.gov.

Welcome to Our New SWIC



ISICSB is excited to welcome our new Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), Haley Nichols. Haley has an MBA Degree in Business Administration from Mount Mercy University and a BS Degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. She is also a recent graduate with a Certified Public Manager (CPM) from Drake University.

For the past three years, Haley was employed by ILEA as the eLearning Coordinator and spent five months as the ILEA Interim Telecommunications Coordinator/Instructor. Haley was employed by the Marshall County Communication Commission as a Telecommunicator and Training Officer. She has worked part-time as a Tama County Emergency Management dispatcher and has been an ISICS Board Member for the past two years serving as the ILEA Representative.

Haley resides with her husband and three children in Melbourne, IA. We are excited for Haley to start her new duties as she will undoubtedly bring a high level of enthusiasm and a unique perspective to the position.

Congratulations, Haley, and welcome to the team!

Role of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)

As the central coordination point for their state or territory, the SWIC plays a critical role in a state's interoperability effort. The SWIC works with emergency response leaders across all levels of government to implement a statewide strategic vision for interoperability. As part of this effort, SWICs are responsible for the implementation of the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan, (SCIP), which establishes a vision for interoperability in the state.

SWIC Responsibilities:

- Overseeing the daily operation of the state's interoperability efforts
- Coordinating interoperability and communications projects
- Maintaining governance structures
- Assembling working groups to develop and implement key initiatives
- Updating and implementing the SCIP

READ MORE

*** Source: <https://www.cisa.gov/statewide-interoperability-coordinators#:~:text=As%20the%20central%20coordination%20point,statewide%20strategic%20vision%20for%20interoperability> ***

What is a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)?

SCIPs are comprehensive plans which outline the following:

- Current and future interoperable and emergency communications environment;
- Goals with specific steps for action (including owners and completion timeframes)
- Defined mechanisms to achievements; and
- Process by which the state will record progress and challenges each year.

*** Source: <https://www.cisa.gov/statewide-interoperability-coordinators#:~:text=As%20the%20central%20coordination%20point,statewide%20strategic%20vision%20for%20interoperability> ***

ISICS System Administrator Report

ISICS Assistant System Administrator Scott Richardson reports the following updated numbers for the ISICS Network for the month of December 2022:

- ⇒ **Total Radios**—31,757 (up 171 from November)
- ⇒ **Total Talkgroups**—2,867 (up 6 from November)
- ⇒ **Total Push-to-Talks**—2,259,785 (down 118,544 from November)

FirstNet Authority Update—Jon Olson

FirstNet National Momentum



PSAC and Tribal Working Group Fall Meetings emphasize FirstNet growth and innovation:

The FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and Tribal Working Group (TWG) held their annual meetings. The TWG met in Boulder, Colorado to tour the FirstNet Lab, share their experiences with FirstNet equipment on tribal land, and offer insights on how to improve tribal public safety communications. PSAC members gathered in Tysons, Virginia to discuss FirstNet Authority accomplishments in 2022, FirstNet buildout progress, and upcoming plans and activities to support the network's continued growth and expansion in 2023 and beyond. [READ MORE](#)

World-renowned holiday lights festival happens with FirstNet behind the scenes:

Every year during the holidays, the city of St. Augustine in Florida is transformed by millions of holiday lights that bedazzle the city's downtown in the event called Nights of Lights. As visitors marvel at the twinkling lights, St. Augustine officials use FirstNet to ensure the event runs smoothly and safely for everyone involved. [READ MORE](#)

PSAC Profile: The National Association of Counties (NACo) represents over 2,300 counties and provides legislative, research, and technical services to help serve the needs of the public. As part of these efforts, NACo works with public safety organizations to establish local priorities and align resources to achieve public safety goals. Through its participation on the Public Safety Advisory Committee, NACo gives local county leaders a voice in ensuring the FirstNet network addresses their emergency communication needs. [READ MORE](#)

By land and sea with FirstNet: Supporting Hyannis Fire on the cape: Hyannis, Massachusetts, serves as the economic and transportation hub for Cape Cod and as a major tourist destination in the summer months. As the town's population ebbs and swells throughout the year, the Hyannis Fire Department faces communication challenges. Whether on land or at sea, FirstNet provides personnel with a reliable connection to the information they need to make critical decisions.

Latest Podcast: Under Development

Featured FirstNet Authority Video: [By Land and Sea with FirstNet: Supporting Hyannis Fire on the cape—YouTube](#)

2022 FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Austin TX, 9AM, Central Time Zone
Wednesday, May 03, 2023, Boulder, CO, 10AM, Mountain Time Zone
Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Seattle, WA, 10AM, Pacific Time Zone
Thursday, November 02, 2023, Washington, DC, 10AM, Eastern Time Zone



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When fiber fails, FirstNet connects Iowa's 9-1-1 calls

When Iowa needed a backup communications network for its public safety answering points, or PSAPs, the state turned to FirstNet. Blake DeRouchey shared how Iowa uses FirstNet as a failover so 9-1-1 calls stay connected. DeRouchey is 9-1-1 program manager for the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and represents the National Association of State 911 Administrators on the FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee.

FirstNet as a data connection: Iowa provides FirstNet to its PSAPs—also referred to as emergency communication centers—as backup to the regular ESInet connection in case it fails or is offline for maintenance.

Shared services for 9-1-1: FirstNet is part of a shared services model for Iowa's PSAPs. The state developed this model as a cost-saving measure to make the latest technology available to PSAPs across the state.

No single point of failure: The Iowa Communications Network is a publicly owned fiber network that has served as Iowa's ESInet since 2010. It provides the backbone connectivity for PSAPs to remotely access the centralized call-handling equipment. DeRouchey recognized that they needed a secondary connection that was totally separate from the Iowa Communications Network. [READ MORE](#)

Building on year of progress, FirstNet Authority looks to public safety to drive future growth

In 2022, the FirstNet Authority reached two major milestones: the 10-year anniversary of the legislation that created FirstNet and the five-year anniversary of the FirstNet Authority will continue to build out the network, bring dedicated coverage to urban and rural areas, and invest in cutting-edge public safety technologies.

The FirstNet network now provides over 4 million connections serving more than 23,000 public safety agencies and organizations. And it continues to bring innovation and special features to public safety users, offering more than 200 unique apps and 525 devices designed for emergency communications.

Using feedback from agencies and other stakeholders, the FirstNet Authority has helped drive new features and services this past year, including:

- An in-building coverage solution
- An immersive test center designed to assess public safety technologies
- A growing fleet of deployables

[READ MORE](#)

Trivia Answer

There are a total of 32,256 LED lights in the Times Square New Year's Eve ball.

Source: <https://parade.com/1131521/jessicasager/new-years-trivia/>

FirstNet Media Mentions

4

- ⇒ [NG911 funding not part of current omnibus bill as deadline approaches](#) 12.20.2022 | (**Urgent Communications—Powered by Dow Jones**) With this in mind, these groups have asked that the NG911 grant program immediate borrowing power to enable quick access to funding. Precedent for such borrowing authority exists, as the FirstNet Authority was allowed to borrow up to \$2 billion of its authorized \$7 billion while awaiting full funding via FCC auction proceeds.
- ⇒ [AT&T Teams With Satellite Provider AST SpaceMobile as It Looks to Boost Coverage](#) 12.20.2022 | (**CNET**) In the video, Sambar quickly goes through a few broad applications ranging from helping its FirstNet first-responder network to business applications like “remote agriculture” and “remote Machinery.”
- ⇒ [A dangerous side of America's digital divide: Who receives emergency alerts](#) 12.21.2023 | (**Anchorage Daily News**) The federal government has launched several initiatives to help improve access to reliable service and spur investment. They include working with AT&T to create and expand the First Responder Network Authority, which recently added sites in West Virginia.
- ⇒ [AT&T's new Robotic dog visited Downtown Dallas and it looks like something straight out of Black Mirror](#) 12.27.2022 | (**WJBK-TV**) AT&T says the dog is powered by FirstNet, a communications network specifically designed to help law enforcement, healthcare and first responders.
- ⇒ [WATCH: New next-generation robot dog hits the streets of downtown Dallas](#) 12.30.2023 | (**KDAF-TV (CW33)**) “AT&T is involved because any type of remote control device needs reliable, secure connectivity, and that's what we do best,” Allen Beadel with AT&T Drone Operations said. He says the dog will operate over AT&T's LTE system and its FirstNet System.
- ⇒ [PSCR partners with FirstNet Authority for June public-safety-communications event](#) 01.3.2023 | (**Urgent Communications—Powered by Dow Jones**) Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) recently announced its partnership with the FirstNet Authority to host 5x5: The Public Safety Innovation Summit, a new June event that is designed to be more “comprehensive” than PSCR's past annual shareholder meeting, according to officials.
- ⇒ [AT&T: Expect Another Great Year in 2023](#) 01.3.2023 | (**Seeking Alpha**) Add in the niche FirstNet operation the company has, with wireless connections they are growing by 334,000 in the latest quarter alone, and I see no reason to be pessimistic when it comes to growth.
- ⇒ [RingCentral VP explains the keys to effective leadership](#) 01.12.2023 | (**Federal News Network**) Stacy Schwartze was also responsible for leading the nationwide team supporting the FirstNet program, providing critical communications to over 4 million subscribers in the first responder community.

FIRSTNET MISSION

“The FirstNet mission is to deploy, operate, maintain, and improve the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety.”

FirstNet Resources

- ◆ [Agency Deployed RAN Presentation](#)
Web Link: https://dps.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/commissioners-office/interoperability-communications/isics-board/pdfs/FirstNet%20Iowa%20Broadband%20Committee%20pdfs/Agency_Deployed_RAN_Iowa8Nov2022.pdf
- ◆ [FirstNet Cybersecurity for Public Safety](#)
Web Link: https://dps.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/commissioners-office/interoperability-communications/isics-board/pdfs/FirstNet%20Iowa%20Broadband%20Committee%20pdfs/FirstNet_Cybersecurity_for_Public_Safety_1.04_External.pdf
- ◆ [Securing Public Safety eBook](#)
Web Link: https://dps.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/commissioners-office/interoperability-communications/isics-board/pdfs/FirstNet%20Iowa%20Broadband%20Committee%20pdfs/ATT_FirstNet_Security_eBook_Final.pdf
- ◆ [FirstNet Fact Sheets](#)
Web Link: <https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/resources/fact-sheet-faq>
- ◆ [Response Operations Group Presentation](#)
Web Link: https://dps.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/commissioners-office/interoperability-communications/isics-board/pdfs/FirstNet%20Iowa%20Broadband%20Committee%20pdfs/Response_Operations_Group_v2.pdf
- ◆ [AT&T Cell Booster Pro](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.com/content/dam/firstnet/white-papers/att-cell-booster-pro.pdf>
- ◆ [CEL-FI QUATRA 1000 FN](#)
Web Link: https://www.cel-fi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/QUATRA1000FN_brief.pdf
- ◆ [CEL-FI GO RED Brief](#)
Web Link: https://www.cel-fi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GORED_brief.pdf
- ◆ [Emergency Management Resource Guide](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.gov/system/tdf/Emergency-Management-Resource-Guide-September-2021.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=1915&force=1>
- ◆ [FirstNet App Catalog](#)
Web Link: <https://apps.firstnet.att.com/?auth=false>
- ◆ [FirstNet Current & Future User Form](#)
Web Link: <https://web.archive.org/web/20220125122314/https://isicsb.iowa.gov/current-future-firstnet-users>
- ◆ [FirstNet Deployable Request Form](#)
Web Link: https://www.firstnet.gov/system/tdf/Firstnet-Deployable-Request-Form-September-2021_0.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=1916&force=1
- ◆ [FirstNet Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.gov/system/tdf/Top%2010%20FAQs%202022.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=679&force=0>
- ◆ [FirstNet in Iowa](#)
Web Link: <https://firstnet.gov/public-safety/firstnet-for-iowa>
- ◆ [FirstNet Nationwide Coverage](#)
Web Link: <https://www.firstnet.com/coverage.html>

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New FirstNet Sites

Three new 4G LTE sites have launched; includes Band 14 for first responders:

- ◆ SE of Des Moines in **Milo, IA**
- ◆ E of Ottumwa in **Fairfield, IA**
- ◆ E of Marshalltown along US-30 near **Montour,**